

Fire Danger Descriptors

Fire Danger Rating And Color Code	Description
Low (Green)	Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands although a more intense heat source, such as lighting, may start fires in duff or punky wood. Fires in open cured grasslands may burn freely a few hours after rain, but wood fires spread slowly by creeping or smoldering, and burn in irregular fingers. There is little danger of spotting.
Moderate (Blue)	Fires can start from accidental causes, but with the exception of lighting fires in some areas, the number of starts is generally low. Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days. Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. The average fire is of moderate intensity, although heavy concentrations of fuel, especially draped fuel, may burn hot. Short-distance spotting may occur, but is not persistent. Fires are not likely to become serious and control is relatively easy.
High (Yellow)	All fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. High-intensity burning may develop on slopes or in concentrations of fine fuels. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small.
Very High (Orange)	Fires start easily from all causes and immediately after ignition, spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Fires burning in light fuels may develop high intensity such as long-distance spotting and fire whirlwinds when they burn into heavier fuels.
Extreme (Red)	Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Development into high intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in very high fire danger class. Direct attack is rarely possible and may be dangerous except immediately after ignition. Fires that develop headway in heavy slash or in conifer stands may be unmanageable while the extreme burning condition lasts. Under these conditions only effective and safe control action is on the flanks until weather changes or fuels supply lessens.